

- 2 Alam M. The atrioventricular plane displacement as a means of evaluating left ventricular systolic function in acute myocardial infarction. *Clin Cardiol* 1991;14:588-94.
- 3 Alam M, Hoglund C, Thorstrand C, Hellekant C. Haemodynamic significance of the atrioventricular plane displacement in patients with coronary artery disease. *Eur Heart J* 1992;13:194-200.
- 4 Alam M, Hoglund C, Thorstrand C. Longitudinal systolic shortening of the left ventricle: an echocardiographic study in subjects with and without preserved global function. *Clin Physiol* 1992;12:443-52.
- 5 Henein MY, Cailes J, O'Sullivan C, duBois RM, Gibson DG. Abnormal ventricular long-axis function in systemic sclerosis. *Chest* 1995;108:1533-40.
- 6 Henein MY, Gibson DG. Suppression of left ventricular diastolic filling by long axis asynchrony. *Br Heart J* 1995;73:151-7.
- 7 Jones CJ, Raposo L, Gibson DG. Functional importance of the long axis dynamics of the human left ventricle. *Br Heart J* 1990;63:215-20.
- 8 Alam M, Rosenhamer G. Atrioventricular plane displacement and left ventricular function. *J Am Soc Echocardiogr* 1992;5:427-33.
- 9 Willenheimer R, Cline C, Erhardt L, Israelsson B. Left ventricular atrioventricular plane displacement: an echocardiographic technique for rapid assessment of prognosis in heart failure. *Heart* 1997;78:230-6.

---

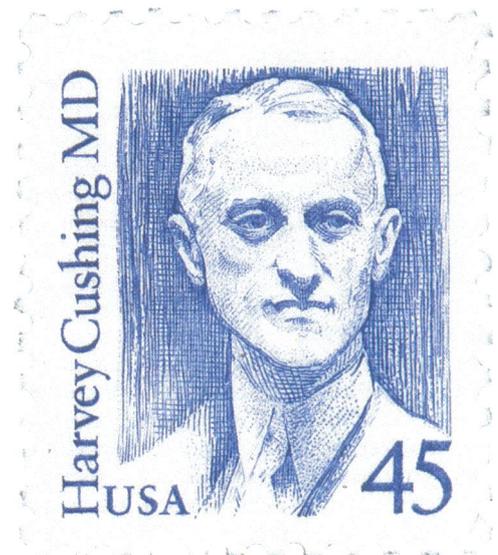
## STAMPS IN CARDIOLOGY

---

### Harvey Williams Cushing (1869-1939)

This 45 cent stamp was issued by the USA on 17 June 1988 as a further addition to the Great Americans series. On the stamp's official first day cover for the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (founded as the Harvey Cushing Society in 1931) it is stated that the stamp was issued "for the work that he did and for his many contributions to the medical profession, and to American society".

Harvey Williams Cushing was a great neurosurgeon, famous especially for his surgery of the pituitary gland and for his description of the syndrome caused by a basophil adenoma of the gland. Cushing's syndrome causes serious heart disease, chiefly through hypertension and coronary atheroma as well as the effects of an excess of cortisol, aldosterone, and androgens. Congestive heart failure occurs in 25% and its poor response to treatment has led to the syndrome being called a killer disease. In 1908 Cushing carried out pioneer work in experimental cardiac surgery (*Journal of Medical Research* 1908;17:471-85). He was the first to produce valve lesions (in dogs) systematically rather than by blind instrumentation. Using a valvulotome introduced into the apex of the ventricle he produced mitral and tricuspid regurgitation by cutting the leaflets, and he also created stenosis of the valves by tying a ligature around the



valve ring. He had several operative recoveries—not an easy task at that time. He also studied valve lesions occurring naturally in dogs and attempted to operate on one animal with mitral disease. His work was directed towards "a future surgery of the cardiac valves".

M K DAVIES  
A HOLLMAN